(c) whether this meeting also gave indication to open new avenues for export of garments in a large scale;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps to implement the suggestions made at the meeting; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce organised a Workshop on Indo-U.S. Textile Trade on 30th January, 1990 in which U.S. Ambassador to India, among others, was present. However, no action point or recommendations have been received by the Government from the organisation.

Import of Spices and Rubber

3481. SHRI SYED SIBTEY KAZI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any requests to reconsider the Export/Import Policy in regard to the import of spices and rubber;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main points in the representations were that the new Import & Exports Policy in respect of agricultural and plantation products—coconut oil, copra, natural rubber, coir yarn, cocoa and spices would have adverse effects on the farmers of Kerala.

(c) There has been no change in the new Import & Export Policy for the above mentioned items except for nutmeg and mace. Import of these two items which was earlier allowed under Open General Licence by all persons for stock & sale has been tightened by bringing them into the licens-able category in the new Import & Export Policy.

Domestic and Foreign Operations of Indian Banks

3482. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that domestic operations of the Indian banks are groaning under huge bad debts and non-performing assets and that their foreign operations also appear to be paralysed;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the operations of Indian banks in the United States are very bad; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to improve the functioning of the banks in Indian and abroad?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) to (d) The risk of certain debts going bad is inherent in the nature of operations of all commercial banks including nationalised banks. Government and Reserve Bank of India have been impressing upon the banks the need to strengthen their machinery for credit appraisal and for exercising effective supervision and control over the advances to ensure proper end-use of funds lent. Banks have also been advised to take strict action against the officials where advances are found to have become sticky due to their negligence, inefficiency or suspected collusion on their part with unscrupulous borrowers. Reserve Bank of India has also advised the banks in November, 1985 to introduce a comprehensive and uniform grading system to indicate the health of individual advances and accordingly classify them in various distinct categories. This is expected to facilitate close monitoring of sticky advances by banks and eventually reduce the incidence of bad debts.

The Indian banks having foreign branches are by and large of small size by inter-national standards and their business is usually limited to the Indian ethnic community. At present 3 banks are operating 7 banches in the United State of America. These branches have been fac-

ing some problems because of stiff competition from local banks, sharp changes in the economic scenario and crash in property markets in USA.

The performance of the overseas branches of the Indian Banks is continuously monitored by the Reserve Bank of India. During the last few years steps have been taken to strengthen the system of operations of the overseas sector in the areas of personnel policy, prudential norms for credit exposures, reinforcing of internal and supervisory controls, introduction of system of portfolio inspections of international divisions in India of banks having overseas operations. Banks have also closed some of their branches which were considered non-viable.

Steps to ensure adequate supply of essential commodities

3483: SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had stated that Government will hold talks with the representatives of the industry to ensure adequate supply of essential commodities;

(b) whether any concrete steps have been taken by his Ministry after the meeting with the representatives of the industry; and

(c) if so, what are the details theroef ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) to (c) Talks have been held by the concerned Ministries with the representatives of industry to improve the supply situation and maintain prices at reasonable levels. Steps have been taken by the Government to arrange adequate supplies of essential commodities for distribution under the Public Distribution System. These include stepping up releases of rice, wheat, enhanced releases of sugar and edible oils for the festival season and arranging imports of edible oil to augment domestic supply.

Close coordination is being maintained with the railways to remove transport bottlenecks and to ensure timely supplies to all the regions in the country.

Transfer Policy in State Bank of Indore

3484. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE to pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that transfers policy is not being followed by the State Bank of Indore, if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) what is the number of clerks/ cashiers, branchwise who are staying at one place for the last 5/10 years in the State Bank of Indore, Delhi branches;

(c) whether it is also a fact that transfers are not being effected even after their promotion;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor, and

(e) what are the instructions in this regard and how Government propose to deal with the situation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available/ feasible.

Tea Plantation in Orissa

3485. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area earmarked in Kalahandi district of Orissa for tea plantation;

(b) whether the land was acquired from tribal farmers for this purpose four years ago;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in tea plantation in this area; and

(d) what steps have been taken to undertake tea plantation in this area at an early date ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Iron Ore Mines in Orissa

3486. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :